

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks is requested.

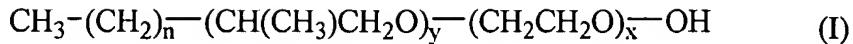
Claims 12, 13, 18-27 and 32-38 being canceled, claim 4 having been previously canceled, and no claims having been added by the claim amendments presented above, the Applicants submit that 18 claims, specifically claims 1-3, 5-11, 14-17 and 28-31, remain pending and properly under consideration in this application. Claims 1, 5, 14 and 28 are written in independent form.

The Applicants submit that support for the amendments to claim 5, 14 and 28 as reflected above may be found in at least paragraphs [0028-30] of the Specification and does not, therefore, constitute the introduction of new matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 5, 14 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Mizutari et al.’s JP 2001-110,760 (“Mizutari”). The Applicants traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

The Applicants note that the amendments to claims 5, 14 and 28 further define the claimed slurry compositions as comprising at least one alcohol selected from those compounds represented by groups I and II as defined in claim 1:



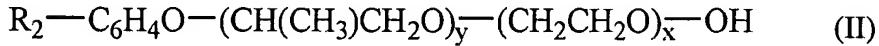
wherein

n is an integer satisfying the relationship $3 \leq n \leq 22$;

y is an integer satisfying the relationship $1 \leq y \leq 30$; and

x is an integer satisfying the relationship $1 \leq x \leq 30$;

and a second group of alcohols represented by the formula II



wherein

R_2 is $-\text{C}_9\text{H}_{19}$ or $-\text{C}_8\text{H}_{17}$.

The Applicants submit that by virtue of this amendment, the claimed compositions are removed from the scope of compositions taught or suggested by Mizutari and are allowable over the prior art of record.

The Applicants request, therefore, that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 6-10, 15-17 and 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mizutari for the reasons detailed in the Action at pages 3-4. The Applicants traverse this rejection.

The Applicants incorporate the discussion above regarding the amendments to claims 5, 14 and 28 to define these compositions as including at least one alcohol corresponding to formula I or formula II.

The Applicants submit that by virtue of this amendment, the claimed compositions are removed from the scope of compositions taught or suggested by Mizutari and are allowable over the prior art of record.

The Applicants request, therefore, that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-3 and 11 are allowed. As reflected above, however, the Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 5, 14 and 28 are sufficient to render these claims allowable over the prior art of record.

Comments on Response to Arguments

The Applicants apologize for any confusion regarding their request for clarification regarding the alleged teachings of Mizutari, Action at 4, and maintain that general allegations regarding the presence of the claimed elements in the applied reference, *i.e.*, "discussed in general on pages 1-6," does not constitute sufficient identification of the particular teachings

upon which the Examiner is basing the rejection. The Applicants note with appreciation the clarification provided in the present Action with regard to the incorporation of a second surfactant composition.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending rejections have been addressed and overcome, leaving the present application in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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